

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC., n/k/a QWEST CORPORATION	DOCKET NO. INU-00-3
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ORDER ESTABLISHING BRIEFING SCHEDULE

(Issued September 27, 2000)

On February 11, 2000, U S WEST Communications, Inc., n/k/a Qwest Corporation (Qwest), filed a petition requesting a determination by the Utilities Board (Board) that the provision of local directory assistance (DA) services is subject to effective competition in Iowa and should be deregulated. Pursuant to 199 IAC 5.3(1), the Board initiated a formal notice and comment proceeding to address the request.

At the conclusion of the oral presentation, the Board set a briefing schedule of October 13, 2000, for the initial briefs and October 23, 2000, for responsive briefs. Additionally, the Board indicated that it would also include in an order some specific information that it would like to see included in those briefs.¹

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The following briefing schedule is established:
 - a. Any party desiring to file an initial brief may do so on or before October 13, 2000.

b. Any party filing an initial brief may file a reply brief, responding to the arguments raised in any other party's initial brief, on or before October 23, 2000.

2. The parties are encouraged to respond to the following list of inquiries within the initial brief:

a. Is a comparable service to local directory assistance available from a supplier other than Qwest? If so, what are those comparable services?

b. Are market forces sufficient to assure just and reasonable rates if local directory assistance service and/or rate is deregulated?

c. Is local directory assistance an essential communications service, such that the public interest warrants retention of service regulation, even if there is a finding that effective competition does exist?

d. Can the Board deregulate local directory assistance (both service and rate), but still require compliance with 199 IAC 22.3(9)?

e. Can a distinction be made among calls to directory assistance by dialing 411, separating those calls requesting a number within the local calling area and those that seek a number that is outside the local calling area? Is such a distinction for purposes of deregulating local directory assistance feasible? Reasonable? Permitted under Iowa Code § 476.1D?

¹ INU-00-3 transcript, vol. II, pp. 563-565.

f. Is the deregulation of local directory assistance an "exogenous factor," as that term is used in the price regulation plan originally approved for U S WEST Communications, Inc., and adopted by Qwest, at section III.G Increases or Decreases Due to Exogenous Factors?

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 27 th day of September, 2000.